

REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the amendments made to the claims and for the remarks made herein.

Claims 1-5 are pending and stand rejected. Claims 1-5 have been amended. Claims 6 and 7 has been added.

The specification is objected to in that the Abstract is not limited to a single paragraph. Applicant thanks the Examiner for his observation and has amended the Abstract to a single paragraph.

Having amended the Abstract, applicant submits that the reason for the objection has been overcome and respectfully requests that the amendment to the Abstract be entered and the objection withdrawn.

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 USC 101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with and explicitly traverses the reason for rejecting claim 2. However, in the interest of advancing the prosecution of this matter, claim 2 has been amended to more clearly state the invention. More specifically, claim 2 has been amended to recite ", accessible from a computer-readable medium," as has been suggested.

Having amended claim 2, applicant submits that the reason for the rejection has been overcome and respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Gupta (USP no. 5,852,475).

Applicant respectfully disagrees with and explicitly traverses the reason for rejecting the claims. However, in the interest of advancing the prosecution of this matter, the claims have been amended to more clearly state the invention. More specifically, the independent claims have been amended to recite that the connectivity test is used to retain

edge or texture-detected image pixels as edge or texture-detected image pixels when predetermined criterion are satisfied. No new matter has been added.

Support for the amendments may be found at least on page 7, lines 18-34, which state, in part, "[t]he connectivity test device ... operates as follows. For a given P (having a value 1) ... If this result is higher than or equal to the threshold N, the pixel is considered as being associated with an edge or with a texture and the value of the pixel of the second sequence of binary images corresponding to the pixel P will be 1. If the result [RES] is strictly lower than the threshold N, the pixel P is considered being associated with neither an edge nor a texture and the value ... will be 0. The pixels having the value 0 ... are not processed and keep the value 0..."

Claim 1 recites a method for determining edge and texture image pixel and further retaining the classification of edge and texture image pixels based on a connectivity test.

Gupta discloses a post-processing system for a decoded video sequence that includes digital noise reduction unit and artifact reduction unit which significantly reduces blocking artifacts and mosquito noise in a video image. (see ABSTRACT).

The Office Action refers to col. 20, lines 33-40 of Gupta for teaching the claim the connectivity sub-step claim element. However, a reading of this section of Gupta reveals that Gupta refers to "prior art post-processing systems where edge detection units follow thresholding by edge connectivity tests and edge linking to obtain the edge map."

Hence, rather than teaching detecting edge or texture pixels and then performing the connectivity test to retain the edge or texture assignment as is recited in the claims, Gupta discloses a connectivity test regarding the image pixels and then performing the edge detection.

It is well recognized that to constitute a rejection pursuant to 35 USC §102, i.e., anticipation, all material elements recited in a claim must be found in one unit of prior art.

Gupta cannot be said to anticipate the present invention, because Gupta fails to disclose each and every element recited. As shown, Gupta fails disclose edge detection and performing connectivity testing to retain the edge assignment.

At least for this reason, applicant submits that the rejection of the claim has been overcome and can no longer be sustained. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claim.

With regard to the remaining independent claim, this claim recites subject matter similar to that recited in claim 1 and was rejected for the same reason used in rejecting claim 1. Thus, for the amendments made to the remaining claim, which are similar to the amendments made with regard to claim 1 and for the remarks made in response to the rejection of claim 1, which are also applicable in response to the rejection of the independent claim, and reasserted, as if in full, herein, applicant submits that the reason for rejecting this claim has been overcome and the rejection can no longer be sustained. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claim.

With regard the remaining claims, these claims ultimately depend from the independent claims, which have been shown to contain subject matter not disclosed by, and, hence, allowable over, the reference cited. Accordingly, these claims are also allowable by virtue of their dependency from an allowable base claim.

For at least this reason, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Claims 6 and 7 are new. No new matter has been added. Support for claim 6 may be found at least in dependent claim 5 and support for claim 7 may be found at least on page 7, lines 18-34.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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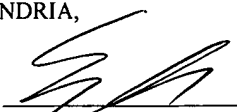
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